

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

Calgary

October 17, 2016

News story #1

crash (0:13)

Former Premier Jim Prentice dies in plane

Setting the Scene



Jim Prentice in 2014, working as Premier of Alberta, in the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton (Jason Franson/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Jim Prentice was a well-known member of the Progressive Conservative Party. He was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Calgary, and even served as Alberta's premiere for a short time. He worked in public service all his life, and his friends have reported he deeply loved the province of Alberta. He was a kind, passionate and hard-working leader.

Pre-listening Questions

Can you name any other Canadian politicians?

Who is Alberta's Premier now? What is a premier's job?

What are some other jobs in politics? Name as many as you can.

Are the Canadian political jobs different from the ones in your home country?

Vocabulary

Find the Definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Justin Trudeau is a **former** teacher. He worked in schools before working in politics.
 - a. was, in the past
 - b. polite, kind
2. The plane **took off** from Victoria at 3:15pm and arrived in Montreal at 10:10pm.
 - a. closed the doors
 - b. left the ground
3. There was ice on the roads yesterday. A bus **crashed** into a car on 7th Avenue.
 - a. got very cold
 - b. hit very hard
4. Jane Smith took the **leadership** of the company after the old leader became ill.
 - a. a position of controlling and running something
 - b. a position of voting for something
5. The 2008 U.S. **election** was important because Americans voted for their first African-American president, Barack Obama.
 - a. choosing a leader through voting
 - b. discussing a country's important issues
6. Eva was offered a great job with the government, so she **resigned** from her job at the bank.
 - a. quit in a formal way
 - b. took a second job
7. Neil is **passionate** about the environment. He recycles at home, and never drives a car.
 - a. having no opinion
 - b. having strong feelings

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

"un-survivable" – not able to remain alive

Progressive Conservative Party – a Canadian political party

MLA – Member of the Legislative Assembly

cabinet – a committee of government ministers with extra responsibilities

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2nbsno

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Chronological order - in order of time

Read the following sentences about events in the story. Listen to the story. Order the sentences in the order they occur in time, not the order you hear them in the story. What happened first? What happened next? *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Prentice and three other people were in a small plane.
2. ____ Prentice is being remembered as a passionate politician and loving family man.
3. ____ Prentice became the Premier of Alberta.
4. ____ The plane crashed shortly after takeoff.
5. ____ Prentice served as MP for Calgary Centre-North.
6. ____ Prentice died. He was 60 years old.
7. ____ Prentice resigned as both leader and MLA.

Food for Thought

In your country, what happens when a politician dies? How do people honour him or her?

How do you honour a person when he or she dies? Are the traditions of your country different from Canadian traditions?

News story #2 Trump loses support after comments about women (1:44)

Setting the Scene



Businessman and American Presidential candidate Donald Trump (Reuters) (CBC File photo)

Donald Trump is the Republican Party candidate for President of the United States. His opponent is Hillary Clinton from the Democratic Party. Trump has been criticized in the past for making rude comments about women, and other groups, too. Recently, a video of Trump from 2005 shows him saying very negative things about women. Now, many of his supporters say they can no longer vote for Trump.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about Donald Trump? What do you know about the current U.S. election?

In your country, would a candidate like Trump be popular? Why or why not?

Who do you think will win this election? How will it impact you? How will it impact Canada?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	candidate (n.)	a) attacking, raping
_____	graphic (adj.)	b) upset, annoyed
_____	bragging (v.)	c) claims, arguments
_____	assaulting (v.)	d) shocking, detailed
_____	apology (n.)	e) removing, stepping down
_____	withdrawing (v.)	f) speak up, volunteer
_____	bothered (adj.)	g) opposes, rejects
_____	come forward (v.)	h) job/title seeker
_____	denies (v.)	i) statement of regret, sorry
_____	allegations (n.)	j) talking to proudly, boasting

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

under fire - being criticized; people discussing someone's actions negatively

Republican - a political party in the United States

"locker room talk" - joking, rude conversations that men have, sometimes about women

shackles - chains that are put on a prisoner to restrict the hands, arms, or legs

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2nbst8

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ☐ Trump is under fire for comments he made to a woman.
2. ☐ In the video, Trump is talking to a television host.
3. ☐ Trump tells the host that he can do anything he likes to women.
4. ☐ Many people believe this is Trump bragging about knowing many women.
5. ☐ Trump offered an apology to an 11-year-old fan.
6. ☐ Trump called the comments “locker room talk”.
7. ☐ At least 13 members of Trump’s party have begun withdrawing support.
8. ☐ Trump Tweeted that he is now free of the shackles of the party.
9. ☐ Numerous women have come forward saying they were sexually assaulted.
10. ☐ Trump denies knowing the women.

Food for thought

Has your opinion of Donald Trump changed after hearing this news?

Trump apologized for the video. What else do you think he could do to help address the problem?

Do you think assault against women is a problem in Canada? Is it a problem in your country? What is being done to prevent and address it?

News story #3

Johnny Gaudreau signs contract with Calgary Flames (3:00)

Setting the Scene



Johnny Gaudreau, also known as “Johnny Hockey” (Gerry Thomas/NHLI via Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

Johnny Gaudreau is a 23-year-old American hockey player. His nickname is “Johnny Hockey.” He plays for Calgary’s NHL team, the Calgary Flames. Last year, he scored more points than any other player on the team. This year, the team gave him a 6-year contract. This means he will keep playing in Calgary.

Pre-listening Questions

Can you name any other Canadian hockey teams?

Can you name any other hockey players?

What is the most popular sport in your country? Do you play/watch it?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

signed (v.)	made a document official by writing your name
contract (n.)	a legal agreement (between people, companies, etc.)
unrestricted (adj.)	with no limits
expired (v.)	ended, no longer valid
known as (adj.)	famous or popular under a certain name or piece of information
scorer (n.)	person who scores points
season (n.)	a period of time in the year
member (n.)	someone who is part of a group

1. Wayne Gretzky is the top _____ in hockey history - he had more points than any other player.
2. Many people wear loose clothes when they play sports, so their movement is _____.
3. James is a _____ of three sports teams - hockey, soccer, and baseball.
4. This coupon for a free coffee _____ last week - you cannot use it now.
5. For her birthday, Mia got a nice card that was _____ by everyone in her class.
6. In Canada, "barbecue _____" is the time of year when it's warm, so people can cook outside.
7. Canadian hockey player Gordie Howe was also _____ "Mr. Hockey" because of his talent.
8. Eric signed a work _____ with Banff National Park. He will give information to tourists for the summer.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

free agent - a sports player who can join any team

goals - points in a hockey game

assist - when a player helps a teammate to score a goal

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2nbszy

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the story and answer the questions. Use vocabulary words in the questions to help you answer the questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Johnny Gaudreau plays hockey for which team?
2. How much money is his contract worth?
3. When did his contract expire?
4. How does Gaudreau feel about being back with his team?
5. How many goals did he score last season? How many assists did he score last season?
6. What team did he join for the World Cup of Hockey?
7. When did the Flames play their first game of the regular season?
8. Which team did they lose to? What was the score?

Food for thought

Do you watch or play hockey? How is it different from or similar to other sports?

Some people criticize professional sports for paying athletes too much money. Do you think Johnny Gaudreau's contract is worth too much money? Why or why not?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and you're listening to Learning English with the CBC for October 17th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	<p>Former Alberta Premier Jim Prentice has died. Prentice and three other people were in a small plane that took off from the Kelowna airport Thursday night. It was travelling to the Springbank Airport, just outside of Calgary. It crashed shortly after takeoff, just north of Kelowna.</p> <p>The Transportation Safety Board calls the crash "un-survivable". Prentice became the Premier of Alberta in September of 2014, after winning the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party. He served as Premier until the election in May 2015. He resigned as both leader and MLA after his party lost power to the Alberta NDP. Before entering provincial politics, Prentice was a Member of Parliament. He served as MP for Calgary Centre-North from 2004 and 2010. He held several cabinet posts in Stephen Harper's cabinet. Prentice is being remembered as a passionate politician and a loving husband, father and grandfather.</p> <p>Jim Prentice was 60 years old.</p>	0:13
Story 2	<p>Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump is again under fire. This time, for graphic comments he made about women. In a video released last week, Trump is heard talking to television host Billy Bush. He tells Bush about how he can do anything he likes to women because he is famous. Many people believe this is Trump bragging about sexually assaulting women. Trump did offer an apology for the 11-year-old video.</p> <p>During the second presidential debate, he called the comments "locker room talk". At least 30 members of Trump's party have begun withdrawing support from his campaign. Trump did not seem bothered by the move. He Tweeted that now that he is free of the "shackles" of the Republican party, he can campaign the way he wants to. Since the debate, numerous women have come forward saying they were sexually assaulted by Trump. Trump denies all of the allegations.</p>	1:44
Story 3	Johnny Gaudreau is back playing hockey for the Calgary Flames. The Left Winger has signed a new six-year contract worth forty point five million dollars. He had been an unrestricted free agent since his contract expired in	3:00

	<p>July. Gaudreau says he's excited to be back with his team. Known as "Johnny Hockey," Gaudreau was the top scorer for the Flames last season. He scored 30 goals and 48 assists in 79 games. He also scored 2 goals and 2 assists as a member of Team North America at the World Cup of Hockey in September. The Flames played their first game of the regular season in Edmonton on Wednesday. They lost to the Oilers 4 to 7.</p>	
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Answer key

News story 1 - Former Premier Jim Prentice dies in plane crash (0:13)

Vocabulary

1. Justin Trudeau is a **former** teacher. He worked in schools before working in politics.
a. was, in the past
b. polite, kind
2. The plane **took off** from Victoria at 3:15pm and arrived in Montreal at 10:10pm.
a. closed the doors
b. left
3. There was ice on the roads yesterday. A bus **crashed** into a car on 7th Avenue.
a. got very cold
b. hit very hard
4. Jane Smith took the **leadership** of the company after the old leader became ill.
a. a position of controlling and running something
b. a position of voting for something
5. The 2008 U.S. **election** was important because Americans voted for their first African-American president, Barack Obama.
a. choosing a leader through voting
b. discussing a country's important issues
6. Eva was offered a great job with the government, so she **resigned** from her job at the bank.
a. quit in a formal way
b. took a second job
7. Neil is **passionate** about the environment. He recycles at home, and never drives a car.
a. having no opinion
b. having strong feelings

Listening

1. **4** Prentice and three other people were in a small plane.
2. **7** Prentice is being remembered as a passionate politician and loving family man.

3. **2** Prentice became the Premier of Alberta.
4. **5** The plane crashed shortly after takeoff.
5. **1** Prentice served as MP for Calgary Centre-North.
6. **6** Prentice died. He was 60 years old.
7. **3** Prentice resigned as both leader and MLA.

News story 2 - Trump loses support after comments about women (1:44)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
h	candidate (n.)	a) attacking, raping
d	graphic (adj.)	b) upset, annoyed
j	bragging (v.)	c) claims, arguments
a	assaulting (v.)	d) shocking, detailed
i	apology (n.)	e) removing, stepping down
e	withdrawing (v.)	f) speak up, volunteer
b	bothered (adj.)	g) opposes, rejects
f	come forward (v.)	h) job/title seeker
g	denies (v.)	i) statement of regret, sorry
c	allegations (n.)	j) talking too proudly, boasting

Listening

1. **F** Trump is under fire for comments he made to a woman.
2. **T** In the video, Trump is talking to a television host.
3. **T** Trump tells the host that he can do anything he likes to women.
4. **F** Many people believe this is Trump bragging about knowing many women.
5. **F** Trump offered an apology to an 11-year-old fan.
6. **T** Trump called the comments "locker room talk".
7. **F** At least 13 members of Trump's party have begun withdrawing support.

8. T Trump Tweeted that he is now free of the shackles of the party.
9. T Numerous women have come forward saying they were sexually assaulted.
10. F Trump denies knowing the women.

News story 3 - Johnny Gaudreau signs contract with Calgary Flames (3:00)

Vocabulary

1. Wayne Gretzky is the top scorer in hockey history – he had more points than any other player.
2. Many people wear loose clothes when they play sports, so their movement is unrestricted.
3. James is a member of three sports teams – hockey, soccer, and baseball.
4. This coupon for a free coffee expired last week – you cannot use it now.
5. For her birthday, Mia got a nice card that was signed by everyone in her class.
6. In Canada, “barbecue season” is the time of year when it’s warm, so people can cook outside.
7. Canadian hockey player Gordie Howe was also known as “Mr. Hockey” because of his talent.
8. Eric signed a work contract with Banff National Park. He will give information to tourists for the summer.

Listening

1. Johnny Gaudreau plays hockey for which team?
The Calgary Flames
2. How much money is his contract worth?
4.5 million dollars
3. When did his contract expire?
in July
4. How does Gaudreau feel about being back with his team?
he says he's excited
5. How many goals did he score last season? How many assists did he score last season?
30 goals and 48 assists

6. What team did he join for the World Cup of Hockey?
Team North America
7. When did the Flames play their first game of the regular season?
on Wednesday
8. Which team did they lose to? What was the score?
The Edmonton Oilers beat them 4-7